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U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy and the Iowa Department of Education launch Iowa Global Education Initiative

DES MOINES –September 11, 2008- The U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy (U.S. Center) and the Iowa Department of Education (DE) today announce a partnership to help Iowa students attain global awareness and understanding.

The U.S. Center and the DE will work together to identify skills and concepts for K-12 students essential to be successful global citizens. The Global Literacy skills and concepts will be a voluntary component of the Iowa Core Curriculum's 21st Century Skills. The collaborative work will also include delivery models based on best practices, a directory of resources available to Iowa educators on global education, and professional development on global education. This work is part of the efforts of the statewide task force on global education sponsored in part by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

"We must find ways to create conditions within our schools by which all students are engaged in understanding the world and cultures outside the United States," said Judy Jeffrey, director of the Iowa Department of Education. "Our students must not only be productive Iowa citizens, but global citizens as well."

Education Consultant Jan Drees, who will direct the initiative for U.S. Center stated, "We are thrilled to launch this project. It will give Iowa students the benefit of an education with a global perspective and prepare the next generation of international leaders."

In addition to its work with the DE on Global Literacy, the U.S. Center will also work in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the University of Iowa, and the J. William and Harriet Fulbright Center in Washington, D.C. to develop and launch the Iowa Task Force on Global Education as the initial phase of a National Global Education Institute. The Institute is designed to create a more globally



competitive and knowledgeable American citizenry. The U.S. Center plans to use the Iowa Task Force on Global Education as a model for five additional states in the nation.

The U.S. Center received support from the State of Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) in the form of a \$150,000 grant, \$110,000 of which is allocated to fund a portion of the Iowa Global Education Project. Private funds from Townsend Vision are also making the initiative possible.

"The U.S Center is pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the state of Iowa on this project, which is aimed to help all Iowa youth become more globally literate in a highly competitive global economy," stated Ann Schodde, executive director of the U.S. Center, a national non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Des Moines.

Additional funds for the Iowa project are being sought from the private sector, including Iowa-based corporations and foundations, to cover the total cost of \$310,000 for the full project.

For more information about the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy and the National Global Education Institute visit: www.uscenterforcitizendiplomacy.org.

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The U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy is a national nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to serving the many organizations active in citizen diplomacy through development of resources which will enable the establishment of best-practices in citizen diplomacy and the recruitment of persons to serve as U.S. citizen ambassadors to the world. The U.S. Center promotes and expands opportunity for all Americans to be citizen diplomats and affirms the indispensable value of citizen involvement in foreign relations. For more information, visit www.uscenterforcitizendiplomacy.org.

The J. William and Harriet Fulbright Center, through education, interaction, and engagement, promotes the late Senator J. William Fulbright's vision of world peace and nonviolent means of resolving conflicts. The Fulbright Center serves as a catalyst for global, regional collaborations to resolve differences, works with higher education institutions throughout the world to develop cultural exchange and study abroad programs and provides a laboratory for new ideas. **www.jwhfulbright.org**